

CAPTAIN OF THE PORT, SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC ADVISORY 03-95

Subj: SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR VESSELS CARRYING CERTAIN DANGEROUS CARGOES IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

1. **PURPOSE:** Commercial vessels transporting certain dangerous cargoes within the San Francisco Bay Area shall follow the procedures of this advisory. These safety procedures are established to reduce the potential for a vessel casualty which could result in an accidental release or detonation of these cargoes. U.S. Naval vessels are expected to comply with the provisions of this advisory to the greatest extent possible.

2. **CANCELLATION:** COTP Public Advisory 3-93 and 8-90.

3. **DEFINITIONS:**

a. COTP - Captain of the Port San Francisco Bay as defined in 33 CFR 1.01-30.

b. San Francisco Bay Area - Those waters from the line of demarcation described in 33 CFR 80.1142 to and including the port areas of Stockton and Sacramento, CA.

4. **DISCUSSION:** Vessels carrying certain dangerous cargoes pose additional risks to the San Francisco Bay Area with its dense population, valuable industrial complexes, and delicate ecological system. The consequences of casualties are serious enough to justify special procedures to reduce the potential for a collision or grounding causing a hazardous material release. The COTP San Francisco Bay is responsible for enforcing regulations for carriage of these cargoes within the San Francisco Bay Area. Under 33 CFR 160.111, the COTP has the authority to order vessel owners and operators to comply with the terms of this advisory.

5. **APPLICABILITY:** Owners and operators of commercial vessels transporting any of the following amounts and types of certain dangerous cargoes within the San Francisco Bay Area shall comply with the terms of this advisory:

a. Ships laden with more than 100 long tons of Class 1.1, 1.2 or Class A explosives (Net Explosive Weight [NEW]).

b. Barges laden with more than 5 long tons of Class 1.1, 1. 2 or Class A explosives [NEW].

c. All vessels carrying more than 200 long tons of oxidizing materials or blasting agents.

d. All vessels carrying more than 5 long tons of radioactive material as defined in 33 CFR 160.203.

e. All vessels carrying, in bulk, any of the cargoes listed in 33 CFR 160.203 (e). Anhydrous ammonia is routinely transported in this area.

6. POLICY AND SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR ESCORTS. The COTP may require that vessels to which this advisory applies be escorted by a Coast Guard small boat whenever they are expected to encounter high-density small-boat traffic during their transit.

a. Vessel Traffic Service, the pilot, or the vessel's master may request a Coast Guard escort if they believe that high density small boat traffic is expected to impede the vessel's transit. This request must be made at least 4 hours prior to reaching the Golden Gate Bridge, if in bound, or at the beginning of the transit, if outbound. All escort requests can be made by phone to the COTP at (510) 437-3073. The granting of this request will depend upon the availability of Coast Guard small boat assets. The earlier the request is made, the more likely it will be accommodated.

b. Escorts for vessels entering the port will normally begin at the Golden Gate bridge, and normally end at the Oakland Bay Bridge, Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, or the northern end of South Hampton Shoal Channel. Outbound transits will be the opposite. The Coast Guard escort craft will maintain a clear trackline for the escorted vessel by preventing other vessels, particularly small craft from interfering with its movement. The escort craft will station itself 500 to 1,000 yards ahead of the escorted vessel except when necessary to leave this station to challenge intruding craft.

c. Continuous communications shall be maintained between the escorted vessel and the escort on a predetermined channel. However, VTS requirements to continually monitor Channel 14 and Channel 13 must be followed.

7. REQUIREMENTS. Vessels to which this notice applies shall:

a. Comply with arrival (33 CFR 160.211) and departure (33 CFR 160.213) notifications, as well as all waiver provisions (33 CFR 160.205), if applicable.

b. Participate in the Vessel Traffic Service and adhere to the Vessel Traffic Routing Measures (33 CFR 161). A vessel may deviate from the Traffic Routing Measures only with the approval of VTS.

c. Have a minimum of one thousand (1000) yards visibility before movement of any vessel, to which this notice applies, in, out, or within the San Francisco Bay Area. Any decrease in visibility must be reported to Vessel Traffic Service. Vessels will not be allowed to enter the Bay or depart from their berths or anchorage if the visibility is less than one thousand (1000) yards. A case-by-case determination, to continue the transit or anchor, will be made for situations where the visibility has decreased below one thousand (1000) yards after the transit has begun.

d. Not exceed the maximum speed limits prescribed by the Regulated Navigation Area for the San Francisco Bay Region (33 CFR Parts 162 and 165). The vessel's speed should be set in consideration of factors such as potential wake damage, traffic density, maneuverability of the vessel, etc.